

Dropout and Graduation Coding

Dropout and Graduation Rates

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Iowa Department of Education

Xiaoping Wang: xiaoping.wang@iowa.gov (515) 242-5986

Gary Kirchhoff: gary.kirchhoff@iowa.gov (515) 281-6278

This presentation will be available next week on the
Department of Education website:

<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/>

PK 12 Education and Finance Data → Data Collections →
Project EASIER → IAAE State Conference Presentation

Dropouts and Graduates

- Dropouts and Graduates are high stakes data.
- Dropout rates are calculated based on one year's worth of data.
- Graduation rates are calculated based on at least 4 year's worth of data.

Dropout Definition

Iowa's definition matches the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) definition for a dropout.

Students who satisfy one or more of the following conditions are considered dropouts:

1. Was enrolled in school at some time during the previous school year and was not enrolled on October 1 of the current school year, or
2. Was not enrolled on October 1 of the previous school year although was expected to be enrolled sometime during the previous school year (i.e. not reported as a dropout the year before), and
3. Has not graduated from high school or completed a state or district-approved educational program; and

Dropout Definition (continued)

4. Does not meet any of the following exclusionary conditions:
 - a) transfer to another public school district, private school, or state or district-approved educational program
 - b) temporary school-recognized absence due to suspension or illness
 - c) death

Students who satisfy one or more of the following requirements are not considered dropouts:

1. Completed requirements for graduation.
2. Completed an education program formally recognized by school authorities for students not addressing graduation or school completion requirements.
3. Attended summer school only in the district but was never considered in the district membership.
4. Transferred to another school and is counted in that school.
5. Not yet in school membership, but family has indicated intentions to enroll late.
6. Long-term absence due to illness and not receiving educational services.
7. Suspension/expulsion with the option to return and the suspension/expulsion period has not expired.

Students not considered dropouts (continued)

8. Expelled or transferred to another district
9. Was transferred to a district-approved alternative high school
10. Left the country
11. Transferred to home schooling

Students considered dropouts

1. A student in a **GED** program is considered a dropout.
2. A student in a Community College **Adult Education** program is considered a dropout.

Dropouts – Data Collection

- Students that drop out during the 2007-2008 school year but return to school prior to October 1, 2008, are not considered dropouts for the 2007-2008 school year.
- Because of the above requirement, dropouts are reported in the spring data collection but the dropout data is verified and certified the following fall.
- The unique state student ID will help identify students that may have dropped out during the 2007-2008 school year but returned to another district prior to October 1, 2008.
- Dropout data availability is almost a school year behind.

Dropouts – Tracking a Student

- Bart was enrolled in District A until he dropped out in January 2008. In the Spring EASIER submission Bart has an exit record of 4 (dropout).
- Bart re-enrolls in District B in August of 2008. He is included in District B's fall EASIER submission.
- Although District A was unaware that Bart had re-enrolled in District B, the dropout report will show that Bart has been removed from District A's dropout report for the 2007-2008 school year.

Dropouts – Coding of Students

- Since 2004-2005, students with an exit code of 4 (dropout) were displayed on the post-fall EASIER dropout report.
- Beginning in 2008-2009, any student who was an active non-graduate at the end of 2007-2008, and who did not appear in the Fall 2008 submission, will also be included as a dropout for the 2007-2008 school year.

Dropouts – Data Reporting

- Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculation for NCLB will assign the reporting district consistently for testing, dropout, graduation, and attendance rate data.
 - Resident students attending their resident district are assigned to the resident district school.
 - Resident students attending another Iowa public school district, AEA, community college, or a private institution under a contract with the resident district are assigned to their resident district.
 - Resident students attending another Iowa public school district under open enrollment or whole grade sharing are assigned to the attending district.
 - Students in foster care (DHS and adjudicated) are assigned to the state.

Dropouts – Data Reporting

It is yet to be decided whether the same calculations will be included in the Annual Condition of Education and the Annual Progress Report.

2006-2007 dropout rates are posted on the DE website and use the calculation that assigns dropouts to the attending district.

<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/> → PK-12 Finance & Data → Education Statistics → Student Data → Student Performance → Dropouts

Dropouts – Dropout Rate Formula

The Dropout Rate Formula for Grades 7-12 for a Specific Year is:

$$\frac{(\text{Sum(Grade 7 through Grade 12 Dropouts)})}{(\text{Sum(Grade 7 through Grade 12 Enrollment)})}$$

The Dropout Rate for Grades 7-12 for 2006-2007:

$$\frac{(3+7+277+557+1,070+1,703)}{(35,971+37,031+40,126+39,556+38,774+38,448)} = 3,617/229,906 = \mathbf{1.57\%}$$

The Dropout Rate Formula for Grades 9-12 for a Specific Year is:

$$\frac{(\text{Sum(Grade 9 through Grade 12 Dropouts)})}{(\text{Sum(Grade 9 through Grade 12 Enrollment)})}$$

The Dropout Rate for Grades 9-12 for 2006-2007:

$$\frac{(277+557+1,070+1,703)}{(40,126+39,556+38,774+38,448)} = 3,607/156,904 = \mathbf{2.30\%}$$

Iowa Public School Dropout Rates

